

Message Text

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43

ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-07

FCC-02 NSAE-00 OCE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 BIB-01 ACDA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1261

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINR EG

SUBJECT: FOREIGN SMALL EARTH STATION TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT

REF: STATE 282811

1. FOLLOWING ACQUISITION OF JAPANESE SMALL EARTH STATION THIS FALL, GOE SEEMS TO BE APPROACHING FURTHER EARTH STATION ACQUISITION QUESTION MAINLY IN POLITICAL AND PRESTIGE TERMS, GIVEN LIMITS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO GIVE AN INFORMATION AT THIS TIME REGARDING SPECIFIC CURRENT PLANS OF THE GOE WHICH MIGHT GIVE RISE TO THE NEED FOR OR DESIRE TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL SMALL EARTH TECHNOLOGY.

2. AS RESULT PRESIDENT NIXON'S VISIT IN JUNE 1974, AND TEMPORARY IMPORTATION OF SMALL EARTH STATION, EGYPTIANS PUSHED THEIR EXISTING PROCUREMENT PROGRAM FOR A SMALL EARTH STATION. STATION WAS PROCURED FROM NIPPON COMPANY AND WAS PUT INTO OPERATION IN NOV 1974.

3. THE EGYPTIANS HAVE PUT OUT TENDERS FOR INTELSAT FOUR EARTH STATION WHICH WE REPORTED IN CAIRO 6321 (8/20/74).

4. DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF THE
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DESIRE OF THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT TO ACQUIRE AN EARTH RESOURCES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (ERTS) RECEIVING STATION TO AID IN GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING. WE HAVE TALKED WITH BOTH LOCKHEED AND BENDIX REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE ACTIVELY PURSUING THE ERTS RECEIVER. WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE ARAB LEAGUE IS INTERESTED IN ERTS RECEIVER.

5. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS LIKELY PLAY HEAVIEST ROLE IN EGYPTIAN SELECTION OF SMALL EARTH STATION SUPPLIERS. IN CASE OF ERTS RECEIVER WE UNDERSTAND OTHER ARABS MAY BE SUPPORTING GOE IN ITS PLANS TO PURCHASE SYSTEM. IN THIS CASE DELIVERY SCHEDULE AND THEN TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT.

6. IN THE TIME PERIOD MENTIONED WE BELIEVE THAT THE ERTS SYSTEM PRESENTS ONLY IDENTIFIABLE MARKET FOR SMALL EARTH STATION SALES IN EGYPT.

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